

MARIN COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CENTRAL MARIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION MINUTES AUGUST 20, 2003

Members Present:	Susan Adams, Rocky Birdsey, Al Boro, Damon Connolly, Joy Dahlgren, Don Dickenson, Welcome Fawcett, Tom Hinman, Phil Kranenburg, Patrick Murphy, Roger Smith, Bob Sonnenberg
Members Absent:	Lan Kauffman and Harriot Manley
Staff Present:	Dean Powell, Marin County Department of Public Works; and Jarrett Walker, Congestion Management Agency Consultant
Others:	Barbara Heller, City of San Rafael Councilmember; Nader Mansourian, City of San Rafael Traffic Engineer; John Eels; Peter Montgomery; Kyle Keilman

The meeting was convened at 4:06 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2 APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2003

M/s, Sonnenberg/Dahlgren, to approve the July 23, 2003 action minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL STREET AND ROADS ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the Local Transit element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 40% of the sales tax revenues towards the Local Transit element; and (2) a sense of local transit needs in the community that should be given high priority in a new system.

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) a comparison of the existing ridership level with the projected ridership levels for the Golden Gate Transit Scenario E reduced service and the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios that build off of Scenario E; (2) the average hourly cost to operate a Golden Gate Transit basic service bus and what factors affect cost; (3) whether the hourly operation costs differ for the to-be-implemented Scenario E service or for the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios; (4) the costs of running smaller shuttle buses versus big bus service; (5) the funding obligations of Golden Gate Transit, Marin County, Sonoma County, and San Francisco to provide transbay basic service; (6) whether the Marin County Transit District could consider contracting with other bus service providers, instead of Golden Gate Transit, for basic and local services; (7) the value of transit centers and their anticipated costs; (8) comparing the annual ridership level for the current basic and local services with the projected Scenario E ridership level and projected ridership levels for the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios; (9) the anticipated traffic impacts resulting from the Scenario E service reductions, including impacts to lower-income communities, such as the Canal area; (10) what suggested sales tax transit funding scenario would best manage anticipated congestion impacts; (11) whether any of the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios would restore Scenario E service levels to current service frequencies; (12) how requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act apply to transit service and what suggested sales tax transit funding scenario would best comply with these requirements; (13) how Title VI compliance is determined and who determines compliance; (14) the status of accessible taxis in Marin; (15) capital costs versus operating costs; (16) financing capital costs and leveraging sales tax revenues and what are typical local match requirements for capital grants; (17) the value of Transportation Demand Management strategies as a cost-effective solution to congestion management; (18) the possibility of using Local Return funds to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles; and (19) the need to develop a specific and simple expenditure plan to obtain voter approval. (Information on most of these topics can be found in the "Frequently Asked Questions #3" handout in the September staff report packet.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the Local Transit element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements. (Committee members suggested an allocation in the 40-60% range with the majority of members in the 50-60% range.)
- Local transit needs identified included:
 - The committee will provide input on local transit needs and priorities for the Local Transit element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements. (Several committee members acknowledged that identifying local transit needs and priorities, such as a local shuttle that connects downtown San Rafael with the College of Marin, is critical to energize voters on a ballot measure.)
- Other consensus feedback included:
 - Local Transit programs and projects of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan should be designed to manage congestion and increase mobility for the community.
 - Fund management, accountability, cost effectiveness, simplicity, appealing to environmental sensibilities, and having the most impact on congestion and quality of life were identified as important voter issues related to a transportation sales tax ballot measure.
 - Outreach, education, and polling are necessary components for marketing and fine-tuning a draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan.
 - A portion of the Local Return funds could be used to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was a request to add to the September agenda a discussion on marketing a transportation sales tax, including a summary of the campaign messages and issues of the 1998 Measures A and B and available polling data.

There was a brief discussion on two recent editorials published in Marin Scope Newspapers (*San Rafael News Pointer*) and the *Marin Independent Journal* written by Dick Spotswood and Mike Arnold, respectively, concerning work on the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. Staff noted that the editorials would be responded to starting in September in an effort to educate the public about the draft plan and work of the committees, provide a possible schedule leading to a ballot measure, and encourage public participation in finalizing the draft plan.

Staff also noted that the October workshop with the Joint Committee has been rescheduled tentatively for October 18th. The location and the time have not been determined yet.

6. CONFIRM/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The next committee meeting is on Wednesday, September 17th, at 4:00 p.m. in the San Rafael Corporate Center. It was noted that it may be necessary to schedule a second meeting next month in order to hear the last presentation on the Local Return element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and develop, synthesize, and finalize committee recommendations for all elements.

Chair Connolly adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.